



Trinity United Methodist Church



William Linton, English woodcut engraving, 1861

are you the one who is to come

or should we wait for another?

Matthew 11:3

December 7, 2025

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101
703-356-3312 | umtrinity.org | info@umtrinity.org

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would complete an attendance card found in the pew rack (or scan the QR code on page 8 with your phone's camera and click the link) to register your attendance today - and do include each family member present.

Prelude

Vom Himmel hoch (Pachelbel)

Jerry Rich

Welcome

* Call to Worship

from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**The Lord is the Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—
the Lord remains faithful forever.**

The Lord upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free, and gives sight to the blind,

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord watches over the foreigner
but frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The Lord reigns forever, from generation to generation.

Praise the Lord!

* Gathering Hymn

People, Look East

see insert

* Lighting of the Advent Candle

Light the Advent Candle (vs 2)

FWS 2090

Light the Advent candle two; Think of humble shepherds; who

Filled with wonder at the sight, of the child of Christmas night.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we do not find it easy to wait.

At times, discouragement crowds out our sense of hope.

Yet you command us to be steadfast in our expectation of Jesus' return.

As the farmer plants and waits for the harvest, may we also prepare our hearts
to welcome him. Enable us to wait faithfully for the promised day,
when the morning star arises in our hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Children's Message

Laurie Strollo

*Children are invited to Children's Worship in Room 402,
a place for those 4 years through 6th grade to worship God in their own ways.*

Prayers of the People

Taehwan Roh

Offering

*Our offering is received as we pass the plates, but you may also give online at
<http://umtrinity.org/give> or through our app.*

Offertory

*A Christmas Blessing (Stopford)
God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman (arr. Kern)*

Philip Keirstead (8:30)
Chancel Choir

Reading from the Scriptures

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts

(Continued on page 3)

and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Expecting Someone Else?

Dave Rochford

The Great Thanksgiving for the Season of Advent

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

[The minister continues the prayer, recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:]

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of food and drink.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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BESANÇON
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247 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

1. O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright thou
 2. Thou heav - en - ly Bright - ness! Light di - vine! O
 3. What joy to know, when life is past, the

beam - est forth in truth and light, O
 deep with - in my heart now shine, and
 Lord we love is first and last, the

Sov - ereign meek and low - ly! Thou
 make thee there an al - tar! Fill
 end and the be - gin - ning! He

Root of Jes - se, Da - vid's Son, my
 me with joy and strength to be thy
 will one day, O glo - rious grace, trans -

Lord and Mas - ter, thou hast won my
 mem - ber, ev - er joined to thee in
 port us to that hap - py place be -

heart to serve thee sole - ly! Thou art ho - ly,
 love that can - not fal - ter; toward thee long - ing
 yond all tears and sin - ning! A - men!

fair and glo - rious, all - vic - to - rious, rich in bless -
 doth pos - sess me; turn and bless me; here in sad -
 Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness, we are yearn -

ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.
 ness eye and heart long for thy re - glad - ness!
 ing for the day of your re - turn - ing.

WORDS: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. by
 Catherine Winkworth, 1863; trans. st. 3
Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978
 MUSIC: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. by J. S. Bach, ca. 1731
 Trans. st. 3 © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN
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Grow — Pray — Study

Our weekly devotional is available at <https://bit.ly/TrinityGPS>



Monday, December 8 — Isaiah 35:1–10

Isaiah offers a vision of restoration where the weak are strengthened, fear is lifted, and the desert blooms with life. It is a promise spoken to a people who feel worn down by circumstances and unanswered hopes. Advent begins by reminding us that God's future often emerges right in the middle of our wilderness—not by removing hardship, but by transforming it.

Even when expectations fall apart, God's presence invites us to walk with courage and patience, trusting that renewal is already underway.

- Where in your life do you long for the "desert" to bloom again?
- How might God be inviting you to walk with renewed strength and quiet hope this week?
- **Prayer:** God of mercy, open my eyes to signs of your restoring work. Strengthen my heart where I feel weary, and lead me into your hopeful future. Amen.

Tuesday, December 9 — 1 Kings 17:17–24

Elijah's miracle in raising the widow's son reveals a God who brings life into the places we fear are beyond healing. This story shaped Israel's imagination for what divine power looks like—not force or spectacle, but compassion that reaches into human sorrow.

When Jesus responds to John the Baptist's doubts, he echoes this same pattern of healing. Advent teaches us that God's power often comes gently, restoring what feels lost.

- Where do you need God's restoring touch in your life today?
- How can you reflect God's compassion to someone in a difficult place?
- **Prayer:** God of life, meet me in the places where I feel fragile. Restore what is broken and help me share your compassion with others. Amen.

Wednesday, December 10 — Matthew 11:2–6

John the Baptist's question—"Are you the one?"—comes from real disappointment. Jesus was not acting as John expected. Yet Jesus responds with grace, pointing to the quiet but undeniable signs of God's Kingdom breaking in: the giving of healing, sight, courage, and good news.

Faith does not mean never questioning; it means bringing our questions to Jesus and watching for the ways grace is already present, even when clarity is not.

- What honest question would you bring to Jesus in this season?
- Where do you see small but real signs of healing or hope?
- **Prayer:** Faithful Christ, hold my questions with gentleness. Help me notice the quiet ways your Kingdom is unfolding around me. Amen.

Thursday, December 11 — Hebrews 11:1–16

Faith, the writer says, is trusting in what we cannot yet see. The ancestors of faith lived between promise and fulfillment, guided not by certainty but by hope. Their perseverance reminds us that waiting is not empty—it is the place where God shapes courage, humility, and endurance. Advent invites us into this same posture: to trust God's promises even when the path ahead seems unclear.

- In what ways are you being asked to wait with trust rather than certainty?
- How can the example of past believers encourage your hope today?
- **Prayer:** God of promise, deepen my trust as I wait. Shape my heart with patience, and help me walk in hope. Amen.

Friday, December 12 — 2 Corinthians 4:7–18

Paul describes us as fragile jars of clay, carrying God's light. Our weakness is not a failure but a place where divine Grace shines most clearly. Like John the Baptist, we can feel discouraged when God doesn't act as we expect. Yet God's renewing work is steady, persistent, and often hidden.

Even when outward circumstances feel heavy, God is forming resilience and hope within us.

- Concerning the part of your life that feels most fragile today.
- How might God's light be shining through that very place?
- **Prayer:** God of renewal, shine through my weakness. Restore my inner strength and help me live with resilient hope. Amen.

Saturday, December 13 — Romans 8:18–25

Paul speaks of Creation groaning for redemption—a longing we feel in our own lives. Advent gives us language for this ache: hope that waits, prays, and leans forward. Even when fulfillment is not yet visible, God's future is already approaching.

John longed for a Messiah who would act decisively. Jesus came gently, and the fullness of his redemptive work is still unfolding. Waiting becomes a practice of trusting that God's way is nearer than it seems.

- What longing do you carry in this season of waiting?
- How might God be inviting you to hope with patience?
- **Prayer:** God of hope, hold my deepest longings. Teach me to wait with trust and to look for the signs of your coming redemption. Amen.

Our Prayer List

Aaron, Adamson family, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arla, Arnold family, Leth, Barb, Ben, Beth, Brett, Bud, Carolyn, Casey, Chris, Christie, Clara, Claudia, Corbin, Corte family, Crista, Dale, Dane, Daniel, Dara, Dave, Davey, David, Douglas, Dudley & Susan, Earley family, Emmett, Evan, Faga family, Frances, Frank, Gail, Gloria, Grace, Gregg, Hager family, Heather & Paul, Jack, Jason, Jewel, Jimmy, Joan, Joe, Joel, John, Karen, Kate & Leo, Kathy, Kizner family, Kristen, Lenore, Linda, Luke, Margaret, Margie, Marie, Mary, Mary Frances, Meri, Michael, Nancy, Peggy, Ples, Roh family, Rubina, Sally, Sam & Alex, Scott, Sheila, Staley family, Steve, Stuart, Sue, Tina, Vasser family, Vicki, Willis & Carter, Winie & Joseph, Wade, Wyatt, Yancey, and peace in the Middle East and efforts of those seeking peace, our nation's leadership and unity, workers losing jobs, people experiencing natural disasters, those without housing, those traveling, those who are hungry.

Today at Trinity

Martha's Table Snack Packaging, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for week-day distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

Special Guests This Sunday – and a Live Update on The Learning Center of Honduras!

Many of us have heard of The Learning Center, a truly amazing residential school that cultivates young female leaders from across Honduras. This Sunday, we will hear from Gris Bailey, Executive Director and Katrina Erickson, Development Manager of Leadership Mission International. We will have the chance during our post-worship fellowship time (at both services) to see for ourselves the life-changing and community-building work that we at Trinity have supported and advanced for many years. Welcome, Gris & Katrina!

Chancel Choir, 10 a.m.

The Chancel Choir meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead worship at 10:30 a.m. New singers are always welcome. If you'd like to know more about Trinity's music ministry, please contact Jerry Rich, jrich@potomacschool.org.

Children's Worship, 10:30 a.m. (ages 4 - 6th grade) takes place following the Children's Message.

Youth Group, 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Visit <https://umtrinity.org/education/youth> to view the Youth calendar.



This Week

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.: Seeking Starlight: A Brief Bible Study for Advent

Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Who is God? How can God be known? And what is God's disposition toward us? These questions will shape a 3-session reflection on the history and present significance of the season called Advent. Come be with us for this broad-reaching, scripture-focused inquiry into what it really means that God chose to become one of us.

★ Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Church Library + Zoom)

★ Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom only)

Dec. 2/3 – 16/17. All are welcome!

Wednesday, 9 a.m.: Prayer Group

A dedicated community that meets via Zoom to lift up the needs of our church family, community and world. If you'd like to know more or to participate, please speak to one of our pastors or call the office, 703-356-3312.

Thursday, 6 p.m.: Trinity Ladies' Cookie Exchange

All women of Trinity are invited to the Newcomb residence for our annual cookie exchange on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.. Please bring 2 dozen cookies and an extra container. RSVP: Mary Newcomb (m_newcomb@yahoo.com) for the address.

Coming Up

December 14: Lessons & Carols

During worship, Trinity's Music Ministry will offer carols to accompany Bible readings about the events leading up to Jesus' birth. Come be with us for the journey!

December 14: Youth Group

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Visit <https://umtrinity.org/education/youth> to view the Youth calendar.

December 20: Christ House Meal Mission

Christ House is a place of healing; a residential, medical facility for homeless men located on Columbia Road in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, 703-307-4635 or dcjeremiah@verizon.net.

December 21: Photo Backdrop Available

There will be a Christmas-themed photo backdrop in the Fellowship Lobby available for you to take family photos with your own camera/phone. Thanks to our Preschool for sharing their resources with us.

December 21: Service of Hope & Light,

A meditative time of worship and healing for those dealing with loneliness or grief during the holidays at 5 p.m.

January 4: Martha's Table Snack Packaging

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for weekday distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

Feb. 19 - 25, 2026: Honduras Mission Trip

Join us as we travel to rural Honduras to serve at The Leadership Center (leadershipmission.org). We will stay and serve alongside 60 young women, attend their classes, work on the organic farm, mentor and just love on these remarkable young leaders. Please reach out to Chris (571-215-2948) or Dan (danmoore53@gmail.com, 703-980-5050) Moore for more information.

About Our Ministries

Nursery

The **Nursery** is staffed during both our Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under. Our nursery is located in the Fellowship Building; simply speak to an usher and they will provide assistance.

Children's Worship Folders

Folders are available during worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please return your folder to the used bin so it can be replenished.

Fellowship: Getting Connected

You are cordially invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services. Join us in the Fellowship Lobby to the right of the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry groups host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links at the right to sign-up.

Trinity Preschool of McLean

TPoM welcomes all students ages 2-6. Please visit umtrinity.org/preschool to learn more about this vibrant ministry or to schedule a tour for your child.

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday to greet people, answer questions and hand out bulletins. Use the QR code below to volunteer for this essential ministry of hospitality, or speak to one of the pastors.

Quick Links

Scan QR code with your phone's camera & click the link.

- > Worship attendance
- > Children & Youth registration
- > Tree Lot Volunteers
- > Book Chat discussion group
- > Christ House wish list
- > Fellowship Hour hosts
- > Ushers



**Join Trinity in serving
our community this holiday season**

SHARE of McLean's Holiday Treat Tables

Saturday, December 6, 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.
or
Wednesday, December 17, 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contribute to a holiday "treat table" for SHARE clients in one of the following ways:

- providing 25-50 individually wrapped baked goods
- providing 25-50 individual juice packs
- volunteering along with a Trinity SHARE partner (Cindy Oh, Lisa Russell) on one of the selected mornings. Contact Lisa to sign-up: russ5bunch@gmail.com, 571- 294-9525.

Thank you for your generosity in sharing the joy of the Christmas season with our community!



Tree Lot Hours

Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays: 12 - 5 p.m.
Thursdays: 5 - 7 p.m.
Fridays: 5 - 7 p.m.

Trinity Church Staff

Dave Rochford
Taehwan Roh
Harriet Latta
Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Angi Oxendine
Catherine Wethington
Laurie Strollo

Lead Pastor
Associate Pastor
Office Manager
Facilities Manager
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Director of Youth Ministry
Director of Children's Ministry

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship is in-person and livestreamed on Sundays from our Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and from our Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on YouTube: youtube.com/UMTrinity. Our 5 p.m. Celtic Service is in-person and streamed on the last Sunday of the month. If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at info@umtrinity.org